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Luther League Review

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Of the Church—By the Church—For the Church

Luther League Review

The Heavens Declare His Glory

BY ANNA M. LANDIS

'TIS an old story, but we love to repeat it, to speak of the first glad Christmas long, long ago. It is a message ever old, yet ever new, as it brings with it good tidings of great joy, heralding the coming of the world's Redeemer.

Jew and Christian see this wonderful event in so different a light, the former failing to comprehend the real beauty of a Messiah here, not one who shall come in kingly majesty to sit on the throne of a Cæsar. These two great classes of God's children may be likened to two men gazing upon the heavens—the one seeing only the blue firmament, dotted here and there with a fleecy cloud, or at night beholding only a mass of stars; the other seeing these beauties also, but more, seeing as it were beyond the curtain into the beauties of the unseen eternity, and there on the great white throne the world's Redeemer, rejoicing with those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Daniel of old saw far into the distance, telling his people: "I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven." And how truly did the Psalmist exclaim: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handwork."

As the lowly shepherds were performing their nightly duty, they were suddenly startled by the appearance of an angel from heaven. Their fears soon left them as the angel comforted them with the assuring words: "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." And why this joy. "For unto you," says the angel, "is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The Christmas message is replete with great things for the world. The angel told the shepherds, "Behold, I bring you good tidings." Everybody rejoices when they hear good news, and they tell it to others who might not have

heard of it. They rejoice because these tidings may mean a happy future for them, and they live anew from henceforth. Perhaps we have some loved one who has gone on a journey, or who perchance may live in some distant part of the world, and we receive tidings that this friend is coming on a visit, how we rejoice. We had hoped to meet again, but now, through the love of our heavenly Father, this hope is to become a reality. Even so, Jesus, the long-expected Messiah and Redeemer, came to earth on the first glad Christmas, and is sojourning with those who love Him, as He himself says, "Lo, I am with you alway."

Dear friends, may we open our hearts to receive Jesus not only as our Christmas guest, but bid Him remain always.

Seeking Jesus.—The shepherds teach us a beautiful lesson of seeking the Saviour, for no sooner had the angel and the multitude of angels ceased their anthem, "Glory to God in the Highest," than these humble men wended their way to Bethlehem to find the Child. "The Son of man is come to seek and to save those who were lost." Can we not help our blessed Redeemer to find us by also seeking Him. Come to Him in humility as did the shepherds on that happy morning long years ago.

Helping Others to Seek Him.—The shepherds made known abroad the sayings concerning the Child, and thus the joyful news spread rapidly until even the hills and vales seemed to re-echo the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest; peace, goodwill toward men." Yes, even the heavens were declaring his glory, for as three certain wise men, astrologers from the Far East, studied the sky, they beheld a strange phenomenon which seemed to foretell a wonderful event, and as a result the Christ Child was visited by these kingly sages, who, when they had reached the city of Jerusalem, asked: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship him." Upon being told that the prophets had said "In Bethlehem of Judea," they made haste to find Him, and lo the star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Worshipping the Christ Child.—The Christmas season fills us with a spirit of reverence, and it is with love and gratitude that we go to his sanctuaries to worship. The wise men, though crowned with earthly honor, were glad to bow before the Child in the manger, for was not this wonderful Babe sent into the world to save them as well as the household of David? Yes, we all have a part in the great plan of salvation, and oh, how we should rejoice that we too may worship him and consecrate our lives unto his service. If we have been indifferent in the great work of saving souls, we, at the happy Christmas time, should

renew our vows of loyalty to serve Him. We present gifts at Christmas to those near and dear to us, and can we not, dear League friends, give to our heavenly Father a precious gift, even our own selves?

—❧—

Many prayers are made with a mental reservation. This puts a distance between man and God the lips and mouth cannot bridge. Our prayers must be offered in sincerity of heart to reach the throne and receive an answer.

Advent

BY I. SEARLES RUNYON

Death, the great enemy of man,
Had held the race beneath his ban
Since Adam's fall from perfect life
To disobedience, pain and strife.

In time there came forth One, in love,
The gift to man of God above,
Whose sacrifice was made to save
Mankind from an eternal grave.

His matchless life and power divine
Brought health, hope, faith, and life sublime
Where had been illness, pain, despair,
No ground for hope, scarce breath for prayer.

What wonder men began to hope
Life had for its extended scope
The whole wide realm of earth and sky,
One full, complete eternity?

So, branches of the palm they bring,
And hail this great Deliverer, King.
Hosanna's wondrous, glorious song
Bursts from the ecstatic throng.

Exalt Him. Crown Him. Let His sway
Extend in power until the day
When righteousness, love, joy and peace
Shall cause all sin and pain to cease.

But crown and scepter wrought of gold
Are not the ones this King would hold.
His crown, of thorns; his sign, the cross;
To cleanse men's hearts and lives of dross.

His palace is the soul of man,
His life in us, the Advent plan.
Come, let us all hosannas sing,
As in our hearts He enters, King.

"Betty Porter, Poor Housekeeper"

A CHRISTMAS STORY

BY EMMA GERBERDING LIPPARD

IT was a cold, frosty, blustering night when John came home. He had been out West just two weeks, and he came back bringing a real Western blizzard with him. We had been sitting before the fire discussing the events which took him away.

"Of course," said Betty, "we knew James couldn't last long. When Jennie died four years ago and left the three we knew that they would come to us soon. It has always been a cross to us not to have any, and when Jennie willed them to me I was just that proud! There was talk of James marrying again a year or so back, and John and I could hardly bear it. John said he'd have those children anyway. But I knew the law wouldn't give them to us away from a stepmother. We never heard from James after that till two weeks ago, and John went at once to the funeral."

"Why, he might have married after all, and you'd never have known," I began, but Betty interrupted with "Hush!"

She had jumped to the window. "There's the carriage! Bless their little hearts, how tired they must be! Come right in, John; the horses will stand." She had stepped out on the porch, but the wind blew the snow over her in such a flurry that she jumped back into the shelter of the doorway.

Then John came stomping up. He had left the three children in the warm carriage. But in his arms he carried a large bundle covered with the old horse blanket, and his eyes shone with the same look that had lighted my Henry's when he bent over the crib to look at our firstborn.

"Betty, it's a babe," he said, in an awed, hushed voice. "James married again, and she died when the baby came, just two months before James. Take it, Betty, it's ours."

Betty held out her arms, and the light that leaped into her eyes matched that in John's. "A baby," she murmured, and bent over it with little coos and whispers of delight. How clumsy she was at undoing its wrappings and getting to the morsel of flesh! I, the happy mother of three, wanted to take it from her and show her how. But I didn't dare.

I had always looked up to Betty. She was a model housekeeper, and her cakes and puddings had for years taken the prizes at fairs and bazaars.

While she was still bending over the child the other three came in, one under each of

John's arms, and a tall, shy girl of ten, with long, straight, black hair, reluctantly following. Her sensitive mouth quivered pitifully, and her great black eyes were brimming. Betty, with that new light still in her eyes, held out her hand. "Welcome to your new home, children. Come and give me a kiss."

Now, I knew what hours of hard work Betty had put on the preparations for these children. I knew how rapturously she had planned every detail. I knew what a welcome she had expected to give them. And the words that she said sounded cold and mechanical to me. Of course, I knew, too, that it was the baby that made all the difference. I could imagine the tumult in Betty's heart, the throb of exultation, the joy of real possession—this wee morsel, who had never known a mother, coming from no one's arms right into hers, what a treasure it must seem; what a long felt want it would fill! For, though Betty's forty years had been prosperous and happy ones, all knew that she felt them empty. John and she were both foolish about children.

Yet a wave of pity swept over me as I looked at James' oldest orphan girl, and I went to her and took her in my arms. "You darling," I said, "you are just like your father, and we all love you dearly. I have a little girl just your age, who has been waiting to see you. You and she will have good times together."

She put her arms around my neck. "Are you my Aunt Betty?" she asked. "No, dear, your Aunt Lucy; but I love you too."

Then I kissed the two boys and pulled off their coats, being careful to hang them on the new hooks Betty had put up just for them. She was still bending over the baby.

After a while we took them all back to the nursery Betty had prepared. It was all in white—walls, beds, curtains and all. The walls gay with bright pictures and the low shelf full of books. There were three boxes for toys, each with a name printed on top.

"But they will never keep all the toys in them," I had told Betty when she showed me the room. "Children can be trained to be orderly at any age," she replied, holding her head at the angle my Henry called "her cleaning crook."

It was surely an ideal nursery and opened into Betty's room. "But they'll come in and muss up your room," I had told her, knowing the immaculate order which prevailed there. "My room is never as I should like it."

"Mine will be; you'll see," she had said, giving her neck the "cleaning crook" once more.

Three dainty nighties were laid out, and a white bathtub stood ready before the fire. "You can hold the baby while I bathe their feet," Betty said.

"Bobbie's too tired," spoke up a sleepy voice. "Me feet all clean," chimed in another. Betty laughed. "Of course, boys couldn't sleep after such a journey without being washed," she said, and proceeded to take off his clothes. "Me want Dora," he whined, and shy little Dora came up.

"He never lets any one dress him but me," she said, and quietly pushed Betty aside, taking the boy. "He'll let me wash his footies, too, if you insist." She spoke like an old woman. "But we never do it but on Saturdays." Betty gasped. Little Jimmie had already fallen asleep, half on the bed and half out. "Bobbie has always sleep with me," Dora said. "I'm not sure he will like a little bed by himself." Again Betty gasped. I saw trouble ahead.

"You'd better be reading the formula for the baby's milk and I'll get them to bed tonight," I said.

"But if they don't begin right," she began.

"We must make concessions," I told her, "and tomorrow you can begin your régime." I got them to bed, snug and happy, with neither foot baths nor tears. Then I went and taught Betty how to feed an infant.

No provision had been made for this unexpected arrival, and I could see that Betty was much chagrined over the question of where to put him. Love pleaded for a crib in her own spotless room, while a lifelong habit of system battled for a fourth white bed in the nursery.

"Of course, he must sleep with us tonight," she said, and I could see how she and John both gloried in it.

When went to my little home next door, I found it littered from top to toe. The children and their father had been holding high carnival while mother was away. The sleepy children were still awake enough to hear the wonderful news that besides the three expected guests a dear little baby boy had come to live with Aunt Betty.

Henry took it as a joke. "A real Christmas present," he said. "Now is the time for Bet to put into practice all her wonderful theories on child raising." Henry, being Betty's

brother, always took liberties that I never dared to take. When she criticised my methods with the children, I always took it meekly, knowing that she was superior to me in all she undertook. She had even succeeded in her plan for the nursery. I sighed as I thought how I, too, had once planned an ideal playroom, but had never found it large enough to hold the toys, and tonight they were strewn all over the house.

Betty was up with the sun, and had the whole house swept before the tired eyes of the travelers opened. The baby enjoyed its bath and dressing, and Betty's eyes were very happy when I ran over to help with the boys.

Later in the day, however, I heard her sing, "I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord," with a kind of a catch in her voice. I had heard her sing it that way before, and always knew something was going wrong when it sounded like that. The children were playing in the yard with mine, in stiffly starched dresses, with their hair just right.

That night Betty's light burned late, and the next morning she was up before daylight. Her house was like a new pin when I went over, but she looked like a ghost herself.

"You just can't keep those children so neat and your house clean like this, Betty," I said, timidly. "You'll wear yourself to death."

"I will keep it clean," she snapped, and dashed viciously after a speck of dust under the bed. The baby cried then, and she ran to him.

"Let him cry a bit," I suggested, but her neck had the "cleaning crook" to it, and I ventured no more. Afterward I heard her singing "I'll be what you want me to be," with the most pathetic quaver, and I knew she was sorry she had snapped at me and was praying for forgiveness.

We all thought she would get help, but she would not. "Raising these children is my work," she said. "Then you must let the house go," said Henry. "You can't be picking up toys all the time." "It's my house," she said, and then I made Henry come home.

Betty stayed up late every night. About two weeks after the children came, I woke up at 2 o'clock one night and saw the light burning. Some one is sick, I thought, and slipping on my clothes I ran over. There was Betty in the kitchen over a steaming stove, singing softly to herself, "I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord, I'll be what you want me to be."

"What on earth," I began, and then stopped in utter bewilderment. Betty was frying doughnuts, and on the table beside her sat a steaming spice cake just out of the pan. "Come in Lucy," she said. "It's the Christmas bazaar tomorrow, you know, and I've sent spice cake and doughnuts for fifteen years, and just couldn't let it go. Have one, won't you?"

"Do you know what time it is?" I asked.

"I know it's late. Baby didn't sleep well till 11. Then I just had to work on the children's Christmas gifts an hour or so. You know, I've always had a theory about home made presents. More ideal than the bought ones." I was too dumfounded to speak. Betty looked as if she would drop any minute. Her exalted ideas of duty alone kept her on her feet. As I slipped home in the cold starlight, I heard her humming in a worn out voice, "I'll be what you want me to be."

These orphans had a grand Christmas. The tree in the white nursery was a picture. And every scrap of Dora's doll underwear was conscientiously hemstitched. Yet she did not seem quite happy. She often came into my house, where Christmas popcorn littered the floors and cake crumbs spotted the carpet, and looking wistfully at me, she would say: "Aunt Lucy, I wish we could live with you." One day she said: "What fun it would be to see Bobbie's toe sticking out of a hole in his stocking like it used to."

Two years passed by. Betty's children were the best dressed on the street, her house was as immaculate as ever, and she still sent spice cakes and doughnuts to the bazaar. John was wrapped up in the children, and spent all his spare time taking them for walks and drives. Betty said he spoiled them, but they loved him with an overwhelming devotion. Some way even baby Teddy clung to him more than to Betty. Since he dragged his toys over the house and littered the hall with crumbs, Betty often sighed as she looked at him. That she loved him devotedly no one could doubt, but he undoubtedly upset some of her pet theories.

She herself had aged. She was often snappy now, even to John. But she still sang the same song.

It was nearing Christmas again. My three were making presents and popping corn. One day John came in looking white and worried. "Betty's sick," he said. I ran for my shawl. "Rheumatism and nerves, the doctor said," he continued, as we hurried over. "Says she ought to go to his place; needs perfect rest." He sighed. "Will soon be nervous prostra-

tion." But we had reached her door. Dora was just leaving the room. "And don't forget to use the blue kettle for the broth," Betty's clear voice followed her. There were tears in the girl's black eye. I put my arms around her and she burst into sobs. "She thinks I can't do anything. I used to cook for papa. He said it was good. We had such good times at home. She'll never let me help." Her heart spoke in a torrent of disconnected words. I comforted her and helped carry out Betty's wishes, then went back to her room.

"Just rheumatism," she explained to me. "I suppose I am getting old. John, do wash baby's hands; he's soiling my spread. No, not that soap—it's too strong for him. His is in the nursery."

She was darning stockings in bed. There was a wild look in her eyes and now and again she pressed her hands to her head. "I'm so afraid that child will black up all the pots and pans, and burn the skillet," she said after a while; and I went out to see.

When I came back she was darning harder than ever and singing fretfully "I'll be what you want me to be."

"Betty Porter," I said—yes, I, who had looked up to her all my life and been afraid; I was boiling over inside and couldn't help it. I said her name in a regular day of judgment voice, and she looked up surprised and half frightened. "Betty Porter, do you know you are lying every time you sing those words? Do you?" She didn't say a word. "You know you won't be what He wants you to be! Did He ever tell you to be a worn out, rheumatic, nervous wreck at forty?" I asked. "You know very well He didn't, and He never told you to go to the sanatorium. And yet that's where you are going."

"I'm not going. Oh, how can I?" she broke in. "Who ever could mend their clothes, or make their health-bread, or keep them clean, or——" I just had to laugh. It was so funny to hear her say those things. And when I laughed she burst out sobbing hysterically like a child.

"Oh, Lucy, I've tried. No one knows how I've tried," she sobbed. "And they don't love me and aren't happy, and John's getting tired of me, and I'm laid here on my back, and oh—what shall I do?" It was pitiful. She had always been the strongest and the finest woman I knew. To see her cry just broke my heart.

"Love you—why, we all love you. No one could help it," I said. Little Teddy came in just then and I put him in her arms. "Mamma Betty, lub, lub," he cried. And she let him muss up her hair as he had never done before.

"Just see how he loves you," I said. "They all do if you let them, and they'll love their home, too. But you must give them a chance. Make it a home for them, Betty—not just a roof and walls. Let them *live* in it."

"I've tried to be a mother to them, Lou," she said. "You know I've tried. And every time I sing that I'm thinking of it and trying to give up more of myself to be that."

"Yes, I know, dear, but there's something else you'll have to be *first*, and I think that's the thing He wants you to be, that you must be."

"What can you mean?" she asked, wiping away her tears.

"Betty Porter, I believe you must be a poor housekeeper," said I.

"A what?" she gasped.

"Yes, you must," I told her. "You can't be a mother, a famous cook and housekeeper, and a healthy woman. If you lose health you'll be neither. Don't try to keep it all so fine. Get some one to help Saturdays. Let Dora get supper and wipe dishes. Never mind if she doesn't put everything in its place. Don't make such rich cakes. Gingerbread is just as good and they love it. Let them make gingerbread men and little biscuits. Why, any one would love you!"

Her eyes had grown bright and she was listening eagerly. "You dear thing," she said; "I'll try." She promised not to worry about the work, but to rest several days. During that time I taught Dora. She was a womanly child and learned well.

A week later, when I came over, Betty was propped up in a big chair, with Teddy at her feet cutting paper dolls. "Where are the children?" I asked. She blushed. "They are in the kitchen; they wanted to make taffy for Christmas." I could hardly contain my surprise. Those children using her precious pots and pans, daubing up that model kitchen with molasses! As she spoke, John came in with a piece of taffy in his hand.

"Here, Buster, ask mamma Betty if you can smear her up with this," he cried, throwing the boy high and landing him and the taffy in her lap. "Doesn't she look like a real Christmas mother?" he asked, turning to me.

(Continued on page 14.)

Luther League of New Jersey

Twelfth Convention at Jersey City, November 6

THIS State League met in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Jersey City, Rev. John E. Heindel, pastor, on Election Day. The morning session was opened with the regular morning service in Book of Worship, followed by a hymn.

Greeting was extended to the convention by President Heindel, to whom Rev. F. C. Krapf, chairman of the Extension Committee, responded.

The president in his report gave a review of the work of the League during the year, and among other things said:

> Through the mercy of God we are permitted again to assemble in the Luther League Convention, to review the work of the year, especially of the last half year, and to advise with one another for the future.
>
> The year has been attended by many evidences of Divine blessings, notwithstanding that we suffered the loss of the distinguished Luther Leaguer, Mr. T. Clem Beck, as the president, and we therefore do well today to lift up our hearts in gratitude to the great Head of the Church for our blessings and for the opportunities that now come to us, with Him in His vineyard.
>
> Fellow Leaguers, it is the King's business that has engaged our attention and in which we are enlisted for the future. Solemn responsibilities have been laid upon the Luther League of New Jersey. May she strive to meet these responsibilities with the utmost zeal and fidelity.

Mr. Edw. Bartels, State treasurer, reported a balance on hand of $50.96.

In the absence of Miss Lena Block, statistical secretary, President Heindel submitted a printed report, showing 15 Leagues belonging to the State League—460 senior members and 139 junior members.

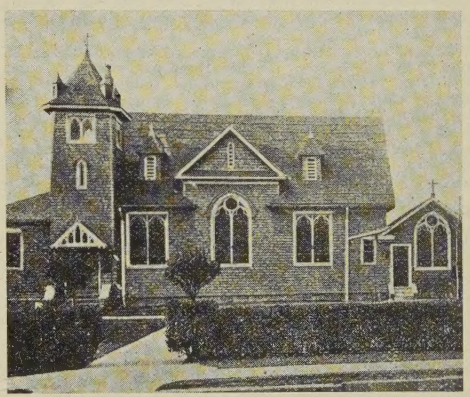
The Credential Committee reported 33 delegates, representing 13 societies present at this time. Having received application for membership into the State League from Luther League of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wildewood-by-the-Sea, H. E. Snyder, pastor, and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Millville, A. H. Schafer, pastor, these societies were received into the League.

Afternoon Session

This session was, with devotional services, opened at 2:30.

Revs. C. G. Veit and Fisher, who were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, presented the following who were unanimously elected: President, John E. Heindel, 39 Warren avenue, Jersey City; first vice-president, Rev. Robert Schlotter, Perth Amboy; second vice-president, Mr. J. O. Linquest, Kenilworth; third vice-president, Rev. C. E. Poensgen, Bridgeton; recording secretary, Stella M. Coble, 1211 West Third street, Asbury Park; corresponding secretary, Miss May E. Burkeman, 332 Fulton street, Elizabeth; statistical secretary, Miss Lena Block, 95 Garside street, Newark; treasurer, Mr. Edward Bartels, 353 New Point road, Elizabeth.

Rev. Luther M. Kuhns addressed the convention, expressing his appreciation of the telegram set him by the 1906 convention; bringing fraternal greetings from the Luther League of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa; stating our work to be in better condition than heretofore; recommended and encouraged a wider use of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW; advised



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, JERSEY CITY.
Where the Convention was held.

Centrals or District Leagues, and extended a hearty invitation to the National Convention, to be held in Chicago during August.

Mr. William. C. Stoever, Esq., president of the Luther League of America, presented his greetings and congratulated the convention on its attendance; also asked that we give as much as possible toward the salary fund of the General Secretary, and that we show our appreciation of his work in this manner; also urged a large attendance at the National Convention.

J. C. Linquest read an interesting and helpful essay on "The Luther League as an Educating Agency."

Rev. Walter G. S. Veit read an essay on "A Working Luther League," encouraging every one, no matter how small or poor, to do what was in his power.

There then followed an interesting discus-

sion on these papers by members of the convention.

The Committee on President's Report submitted their report, as follows:

1. Recommend that the whole matter of Rallies be left entirely in the hands of the Extension Committee, who, in co-operation with the local League holding the Rally, should decide as to the date of meeting; also the selection of speakers be left in hands of Extension Committee.

2. The subject of Centrals or District Leagues be given into the hands of the Executive Committee, who shall determine the boundary lines of the Centrals and give whatever information and help those desiring Centrals may wish.

3. That the order of business adopted at the 1906 convention be incorporated into the bylaws.

4. That the Press Committee have proper and sufficient stationery printed and distributed to the respective officers immediately after the adjournment of this convention.

5. That our Statistician be requested to have the annual convention report printed for distribution at the convention, the number being determined by the Statistician.

6. That as full an account as possible of the proceedings of the convention be given to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW for publication, and that the various Leagues procure and preserve at least one for reference during the year.

7. That a committee of one be appointed, to be known as the Luther League Review Committee, and that this be made a standing committee. The duty of this committee shall be to recommend the REVIEW in the Leagues and homes of the State as he or she may see fit.

8. That more attention be given the notices coming from the respective officers of the State League to the local Leagues.

9. That we pledge our hearty support to present heads of Luther League of America. That we be represented at the National Convention, to be held in Chicago, 1908, and that we pay amount pledged to General Secretary Salary Fund, $15, and make up the unpaid balance, and, if possible, increase the amount pledged.

10. That the Junior Luther League receive special attention at this convention; and that the vice-president be again chosen, with a view to taking charge of the organizing of Junior societies.

11. That the matter of model constitutions for a District Luther League, for a Luther League and for a Junior Luther League, be put in the hands of the Extension Committee.

On motion made and carried the time and place for the thirteenth annual convention of the State of New Jersey was left in the hands of the Executive Committee, as well as the choice of a delegate to the National Convention.

A vote of thanks was extended by the convention to the pastor of the local church, the members of the Luther League and the members of the church for the kind hospitality received by the delegates and visitors.

There being no further business, after hymn, Lord's Prayer and Benediction, the afternoon session adjourned.

The Evening Session

as outlined by the programme for the occasion, was carried out, Rev. J. F. Ohl's absence having been filled by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, who gave a most interesting address and one that will not soon be forgotten by those fortunate enough to hear him.

Mr. William Nissley McNair, president of the Pennsylvania State League, also addressed the convention.

An interesting number on the programme was a soprano solo, sang by Miss Lillian Barr.

After the offerings and the Luther League Rally Hymn, the Closing Vespers were used, and twelfth annual convention of the Luther League of the State of New Jersey then adjourned with the Benediction.

The following committees for 1907-1908 have been appointed by the president:

Executive Committee.—Rev. C. T. McDaniel, 204 Tenth street, Hoboken; Mr. Louis VanGilluwe, Ocean Grove; Miss Ottilie Kiesele, 29 Osborne terrace, Newark; Mr. T. Clem. Beck, Sayre street, Elizabeth; Rev. John H. Meyer, 25 Clendenny avenue, Jersey City.

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Press Committee.—Rev. W. H. W. Reimer, 46 Baldwin avenue, Newark; Rev. Fred. C. Krapf, 903 East Jersey street, Elizabeth, N. J.; Mr. J. A. Lundgren, Upsala College, Kenilworth; Rev. A. D. Schafer, Millville; Mr. C. L. von Dreele, Hoboken.

Credential Committee.—Miss Augusta Neubeck, 46 DeHart place, Elizabeth; Mrs. Fred Coleman, 14 Danforth avenue, Jersey City; Mr. Frank Ewan, Wildwood-by-the-Sea; Mr. E. Stuckey, Fulton avenue, Jersey City; Miss Leona Troll, Dewey street, Jersey City.

Betty Porter

(Continued from page 12.)

"I'm going to try to be," she smiled at me. "A real Christmas mother and a poor housekeeper."

It is ten years since then. Our Christmas bazaar was last night. Several people noticed Dora, the prettiest bride of the year.

"What cake did you bring?" one woman asked her.

"I?" she replied, glancing affectionately toward the corner where her brothers loyally surrounded Betty. "Oh, I don't make fancy cakes. Mamma Betty never taught me that. But she taught me to make the best gingerbread in the world, and always to keep a happy home," she added under her breath.

"And a Little Child Shall Lead Them"

Isaiah 11:6.

BY GRACE WEST

(Continued from the September Number.)

I did not hear again from Mr. Learoyd until four years later. I had written to him twice, but had received no reply. Then one snowy day, just three weeks before I was to start on another trip to Hong Kong, the afternoon post brought me a foreign letter. I did not recognize the handwriting. Neither did I remember any one living at Nan-King, China, which was the postmark. As soon as I opened the envelope I looked at the signature and found it to be that of Edward Learoyd.

Both my astonishment and curiosity were great, so I settled myself comfortably in an armchair, lighted the lamp, and read.

NAN-KING, China, February 6, 18—

My dear Spence:

I was most agreeably surprised when two weeks ago I was handed a letter from you dated two years back. The servant said he had found it in one of my boxes, where it has probably reposed these many months. My time is so very limited that my correspondence is necessarily so; but when it is my good fortune to answer such a cordial letter as yours, I try to do it justice.

Oh, I am so full of the work I am doing; so grateful for this splendid opportunity that I don't know how to begin to tell you about it. You who know me from years ago when (I am ashamed to write it now) in the iniquity of my sins, I said there is no God, will you, can you, believe it that I am working now to bring other souls to Christ? I have fathomed the word of Jesus when he said to his disciples, "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

And my tribulations have passed away one by one, and all that is left of them is the aftermath. I have perfect peace and trust in my Saviour. My dear friend, do you not rejoice with me?

You made inquiries in your letter about Dr. Hasler. Yes, he is well, and still continues in his work.

I received a letter from him but a week ago. The mails are at present very irregular and consequently letters are a rare occurrence.

When we landed at Hong Kong four years ago, Dr. Hasler was called to S—— and I accompanied him. The mission work there was quite advanced. I soon discovered that it had a great fascination for me, the more so as I readily learned the language. I did not, however, make up my mind suddenly but after giving the matter serious consideration, and praying for strength, I decided to assist Dr. Hasler for one year.

Our quarters were in the eastern section of the city where the poor class of Chinese live. We conducted the chapel services, a school and a hospital, and the work prospered. At the end of the year there was a call for a missionary at Nan-King, and I went. At first I had a heavy heart. The questions arose "Would I be successful?" "Was I not undertaking too much?" But I took all my troubles to my heavenly Father and soon my mind was at rest.

It was good that I had this refuge, or I should certainly have despaired long ago. Such obstacles confronted us at every turn! I forgot to mention that another missionary was going in the same direction to Su-Chan.

Have you ever traveled on a river boat in China? The boats are flat bottomed and large, about seventy or eighty tons burden, and covered with a semicircular rool of bamboo matted together. The only advantage of this roof is that it is waterproof. There are, of course, no cabins, a portion of space being assigned to each passenger. We were packed in very tightly, there being many people on board. There were three or four opium smokers, six mandarin's servants, some soldiers, two convicts, and our own party. We conducted services on the boat and also at the towns at which we stopped.

I left my companion, Mr. Day, at See-Chau, which is famous all over China and is spoken of as "Above is Heaven; below Hang-Chau and See-Chau!" Our boat stopped at the "Granary Gate" and the multitude of people hurrying to and fro was immense. There is work in plenty there.

Four days later I reached Nan-King. It

was so difficult to secure lodgings that I slept in the boat for about a week, and went about the city during the day, preaching mainly in the tea shops. At last I found an inn keeper willing to accommodate me with lodgings; and such lodgings! But I was thankful to obtain anything. I had one room which contained a stool and a bedstead. The bedstead was made of two bamboo trestles, and a bamboo frame resting upon them. The bedding consisted of a pillow and a mosquito curtain. There was an opening which served as a window, and another which did duty for a door.

During the next few months I worked quietly among the natives and looked about at the same time for more suitable and permanent quarters.

At last I succeeded in renting a house from an aged Chinese and was busy putting it to rights when Mr. Day came to Nan King. He has been sent on to help me. I was very grateful indeed for his assistance, especially as he brought along a Mandarin teacher. It was then only a matter of a few months before we had a school opened.

It was difficult, however, to obtain students. For a week there was but one young man; then as an inducement we offered a breakfast to all who came. Although the attendance was larger, it was also very irregular. Then we offered both breakfast and supper, and the attendance increased steadily in number and regularity. The ages of the students vary from twelve to twenty-one years.

There is always a good attendance Sundays at our chapel and we receive very many visits during the week. We have baptized up to this time 34 natives and we have hope of as many more in the near future. The results of our labor seem slow but sure.

But I have not told you of my other coworker. My pen has been fairly running away with itself so as to get to this part of my letter. I did not want to begin my letter with it as I wished to let you have all the facts first. But I will not keep you waiting any longer, but tell you at once that my coworker is none other than my dear wife, who was, when you knew her, Mrs. Neville.

Indeed, it is much for a woman to do, to labor among these thousands of heathens, rundreds of miles away from civilization, I thought over it a long time, but she feared nothing and spoke with the Psalmist, "I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works."

And the work we are doing here has prospered wonderfully since her arrival. The native women fairly worship her, and they come to our house always when in need of help.

My dear Spence, you surely are coming to China again soon. Can you not come and pay us a visit. I know the work will interest you and we should dearly love to have you with us.

Wherever this letter reaches you, I beg you help our cause with prayer, and if you know of any earnest young men seeking to work for their Master, send them to this benighted land that they may preach the Gospel to the thousands of souls waiting in the darkness.

My dear wife and I hope to see you with us, perhaps, before the year is over.

Yours sincerely, HERBERT LEAROYD.

Before the year was over,I did go to Nan King. I have been there ever since. The work proved so interesting to me, and the call of conscience so strong that I severed my connection with the firm by which I was employed, and have since labored in that vineyard of which Jesus Christ is the Master.

One evening in September I landed at Nan King, and inquired my way to the mission house. It stood at the end of a busy street. Above the entrance was fastened a placard bearing the words in Chinese "And God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It is not necessary for me to say how welcome I was made. I felt in a week as though I had lived here all my life. The school had made splendid progress, and a new hospital was being built. The natives are remarkably quiet, although when Mr. Learoyd first came, they resented the arrival of the "foreign devils" and there were several disturbances.

We often speak of little Arthur Neville. Last night I saw Mr. Learoyd's Bible lying open and it was marked in the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, sixth verse,

"And a little child shall lead them."

(The End.)

—❦—

Patience

I've learned as days have passed me
Fretting never lifts the load,
And that worry, much or little,
Never smooths an irksome road.
For you know that somehow, always,
Doors are open, ways are made,
When we work and live in patience
Under all the crosses laid.

"Fifty Little Missionaries"

A Story for the Juniors

MAMIE came into my room with a pouting face. "Auntie Fay," she said, "you must help us out. We're in despair!"

"In despair! Well, this is sad. Do tell me what's the trouble."

"Well, you know, auntie, it's our 'Sacrifice Band.' We were to save our money for a Christmas missionary box. And we saved and saved, and tried so hard. But Miss Miller said every cent must be a *real* sacrifice, and it's hard to get sacrifice money, you know. So we haven't enough to buy anything nice, and what shall we do?"

"What did you want to buy, dear, and where is it to go?" I asked.

"We can send it anywhere we please—but we did want it to go to Japan. We love the little Japanese so much. But we have only fifty cents, auntie. I'm ashamed of it, but there are only ten of us, you know, and it's every cent sacrifice. But it couldn't buy more than five gifts, could it? And the missionary who was here last May told us about fifty little girls he wanted us to sacrifice for, so we would be ashamed to send gifts to only five."

The little head drooped sadly, and the lips which were made to smile began to quiver. Mamie was only twelve, and the oldest one in the "Sacrifice Band." I stroked her tangled curls.

"Can't you think of something, auntie?" she asked wistfully. "All the girls thought you could."

"Why not buy just one present and send it to the missionary?" I suggested.

"No, no, that wouldn't do! We must send to those little girls. We've sacrificed for them all the year," she insisted. I thought awhile.

"Suppose we go down the street and look in the stores. Maybe we can see something," I said at last.

She clapped her hands. "The very thing!" she exclaimed. "We all knew you'd think of something." We went to Janie's mamma and she said: "Buy fifty clothespins." Mary's papa said: "Send the money and let them buy rice." But we want to send something they can keep and remember us. Hurry, Auntie! All the girls are waiting outside to hear what you say. They can all go along." Sure enough ten eager little girls were shivering outside, and all were delighted to walk through the stores with me.

So up the street we went, breathing in Christmas at every step. Christmas dolls smiled at us from the windows. Christmas greens and holly wreathed the doors we passed through. Christmas candies tickled our noses with their sweet smells, and Christmas joy beamed from all the faces we looked into. "All this a month before Christmas," I thought, "and no Christmas at all for those fifty little girls they have planned for unless we find something."

I noticed that though the girls admired all the toys, exclaimed at all the greens and whiffed at all the sweets, it was always the dolls they came back to and admired the most. "Would not the little heathen girls be the same?" I asked myself.

We stopped before a table marked "Everything here one cent," and all at once I saw what we would send. "Japan is the land of small things," I said, "we will send each of those little girls a missionary doll." So we bought fifty penny dolls.

"All come to my room to dress them, after dinner," I said, "and bring enough cloth to dress as many as you gave pennies for. Each bring a pencil, too."

By 2 o'clock all the little girls were there. What fun we had dressing those litle dolls! "Each one is a little missionary to carry a message of love to those little Japanese," I told them.

After all were dressed I gave each child a card. "Write on the dolly's name," I said. And we had a gay time naming all the dolls. "Now, write on the card what you sacrificed to get her," I told them. And so they wrote "Chewing gum," "A new shoestring," "A penny ring," "A merry-go-round ride," etc., etc., on each doll's card.

We pinned the cards on the missionaries' gowns, packed them in a box and wreathed it in holly and greens.

"What a *beautiful* Christmas box!" said Mamie. "I am sure we are all proud of it, and will sacrifice more next year for our fifty little girls."

Luther League Topics

Epiphany. January 5, 1908.

The Three Kings

Matt. 2:1-12.
Biblical Topic reviewed by Rev. C. A. Miller, D.D.

Questions to be answered in brief papers: What are the differences between this story and that of the visit of the shepherds to Jesus? What do we know of the Magi? What was the significance of this event?

Lessons. for our own lives: We may well imitate the Magi in their earnestness in seeking the King. Perhaps two years they had been on their journey. It had meant much of danger; much of toil and self-sacrifice; much of expense; but they counted it all well spent if only they might find the newborn King. How much of that time and toil and treasure would we devote to finding Him if, instead of graciously coming to us, in Word and Sacrament, we had to go out and seek for Him to the world's end?

And yet they did not find Him without the Word. The Star was not enough. The guidance of Nature alone does not lead to Christ! It may lead far enough on the way to bring us within the reach of the enlightening Word; it may prepare us for the message of the Word; but God reveals Himself fully, clearly, savingly only through the Word. It was necessary for the Wise Men to come to Jerusalem, where the prophet Micah could speak to them, before they could exactly determine where the natal town of the King was to be found. Then, as now, Christ was to be sought and obtained only through the Word!

They gave their homage to the Babe. Not dismayed because they saw Him in lowly guise. Not moved to disbelief because there was no royal display. Not caring that He had no palace, no courtiers, no army, no pomp, but only a simple maiden and her husband, to wait upon Him and do Him honor! They worshipped Him, these rich and great ones, whom Herod did not disdain to receive and respect! Not many mighty, not many wise, not many great bow before Him, and follow Him, as King, but thank God, *some* of earth's high citizens do recognize and worship Him.

They came to Him with generous gifts. Perhaps without these tribute moneys He could not have been swifty carried to the safe refuge of Egypt, when the wrath of Herod sought His life! What joy, what privilege, to have made possible (we speak after the mode of earthly things) His deliverance from danger! How good it was to be able thus to help Him with treasure. That is the true and best value of this world's goods, that we have wherewith to give to Christ, for His purposes, for the deliverance of those whom He has ransomed, whom He loves! Bring Him your loving, grateful tribute! Serve Him with life and with possessions.

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First Week After Epiphany. Jan. 12, 1908.

Lutherans in Japan

NOTE.—A Lutheran minister familiar with the work in Japan had promised to review this Topic for this column. Just before going to press, he asks to be excused because of lack of time. We reprint a few paragraphs from our periodicals of six years ago which, in connection with Doctor Lippard's discussion and "Seed Thoughts" in the "Luther League Topics," will be helpful in the consideration of this subject.—EDITOR.

Acts 10:30-35.
Review of Missionary Topic.

"THE FIELD.—The mission is located on the Island of Kyushu, the most southern of the main islands of Japan. Its headquarters are in Saga, an old interior city of 30,000 people. Other stations are in Kumamoto, 60,000; and Kurume, 25,000. From these cities as centers a good deal of work is done in the neighboring villages and towns. The people who inhabit this field are, for the most part, obstinate and earnest believers in Buddha. The climate is quite good for eight months of the year, but is oppressively warm and damp during the remaining four.

"METHODS.—The work done by this mission is purely evangelistic, both the native and foreign workers giving all their time to preaching, catechizing, house to house visitation, etc. As yet no schools have been established, but there is great need of a theological training school.

"RESULTS.—Perhaps the most important result accomplished has been the translation of Luther's Small Catechism, the Augsburg Confession and the Common Service with Orders for Ministerial Acts. On the material side, a neat church has been built, and mission homes have been purchased in Saga and Kumamoto."
—Rev. Peery.

"We have a Sunday school much as you have at home, and here the little children gather, each week, and listen to their teacher attentively and gladly. At Christmas time we have a Christmas tree, and they sing Christmas songs and recite long passages of Scripture and each one receives a gift. It is wonderful how these little ones memorize Scripture. They all recite aloud, in a sing-song

voice, and they seldom forget what they are once taught.

"The older boys have a league called the 'Seinen Kwai,' which meets once a week. All the missionaries have Bible classes in their homes, which the high school boys attend. One of our lady workers has a singing class for boys. These boys care more to learn English than to hear about Christ, but we hope that by constantly hearing of Him they may finally be brought to own Him as their Saviour. Those of our young men and girls who have become baptized Christians are very faithful, and many undergo trials and persecutions for the sake of their faith."—Mrs. Lippard.

"There is a wide difference between manners and morals, refinement and religion, civilization and Christianity. A man can have plenty of polish without the least of purity. We use a sort of varnish which comes from Japan, and is therefore called 'japan.' Well, Japan has been japanned. There is a surface of varnish and a core of corruption. The Japanese have beautiful manners, they have refinement, they are civilized; but they are immoral, they are not religious, they are far from being evangelized—Japan is a whited sepulchre.

"Those who have lived there longest know this best. Travelers who spend a few weeks in the open ports go into ecstasies. Missionaries who dwell long in the interior are tempted to fall into despair. During four out of the five years I spent in Japan it was my privilege and duty to come in daily contact with several hundred native students. When I made an effort to discover their ideals by asking a class of seniors to write an essay on 'The Noblest Thing I Ever Heard Of,' nine belauded a suicide, while the tenth idealized a wife murderer! Is that heathenism or not?

"Lutherans, therefore, being Christians, have a mission in Japan. It is demanded on general principles. But Lutherans have a peculiar call of labor in Japan, for the native churches need our help. In many cases they are honeycombed with heresies, enervated with rationalism, weak in the faith. Certainly we are not to proselyte. What I mean is this: Lutheranism has always stood for a stalwart faith in the efficacy of the Word of God as 'the power of God unto salvation.' The infant Church of Japan is like 'an infant crying in the night' for 'the sincere milk of the Word.' That mass of 40,000 nominal Christians needs us as a leaven.

"Japan is the door to Asia. Napoleon, looking out on the nations of the world from the seclusion of his exile at St. Helena, spoke of China as a sleeping giant, 'and,' he added, 'when China awakens the face of the world will be changed.' Signs now indicate that this awakening will not be long delayed. Shall the roused giant be Christian or pagan, friend or foe? This depends largely upon Japan. If proximity means anything, if racial kinship stands for aught, if centuries of the same literature and the same civilization have any influence, Japan, with her ready receptiveness of new truth, is the natural intermediator between West and East, the John the Baptist of Asia, the preordained prophet to conservative China. I for one believe that a civilized and Christianized Japan will be the chief instrument under God for the civilization and Christianization of China and of Asia. So will the light return into the East, whence it came. It came to us from Palestine, which nestles against the great mother continent on the one side precisely as Japan lies on the other side. It has traveled as the sunshine travels, steadily from east to west. And as surely as light travels in an orbit so surely ought this Gospel light, having belted the world with its blessings, come back into the East from the other side, and the East will be all uplift again. Is Japan worth saving?"—Dr. Scherer.

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2d Week After Epiphany. January 19, 1908.

Conditions of Acceptable Prayer

John 16:23-33.

Practical Topic reviewed by Rev. C. A. Miller, D.D.

Questions to be answered in brief papers: What is true prayer? What are the chief conditions of prayer? What is it to pray in Jesus' Name?

Lessons for our own lives: After all, there is but one condition of true prayer. It is that upon which emphasis is laid in our Scripture lesson. If one prays, truly, in the Name of Jesus, one meets *all* the conditions of prevailing prayer. For to pray in His Name means to pray in reliance on Him and His merits. It means to abandon any idea that we have a claim of our own upon God. The Pharisee, in the Temple, prayed in his own name. "Lord I thank thee that I * * * I * * * I." It was his own excellence, his almsgiving, his righteousness, which he made mention of! But to pray in Jesus' Name is to recognize our need of some one to give us a right to draw near to the King. It is to employ the Name through which we have access and influence, as the trusted clerk is given the right to sign the name of the

firm, as the son has admission to friendship and to authority because he bears his father's name. Christ's Name, in prayer, does far more than this, confesses our confidence in all that He has done, as done for us, acknowledges that we dare approach only because He has lived, suffered, died and risen for us, and trusts that His merits, according to God's Word, constitute, in our behalf, a plea before our Father, which He will honor and accept.

If one prays, truly, in the Name of Jesus, it means that one lives in communion with His Person. Here, as in all else, it is not merely the truth about Christ, but the relation of the praying soul to Him, that is essential. I can really pray in Christ's Name only if I am Christ's, only if He abides in me and I in Him. It is the indwelling of Christ that gives me the right to the use of His Name. Of course, the Name means more than a mere appellation, a collection of letters that form a word by which we call Christ! The Name is the Person in so far as He has revealed Himself to us, and we have entered into the revelation. "He prays in the Name of Christ who, when he prays, is in Christ, and prays as one in Christ" (Lücke). This involves faith, this involves the submission of the will to God's will, since it must include the appropriation of Christ's mind, His aims, His purposes. So, too, it involves humility, persistency, sincerity. All is included in that one condition, "Asking in His Name."

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Third Week in Advent. Jan. 25, 1908.

William Tyndale, Translator of the English Bible

Nehemiah 8:1-8.

Review of Historical Topic by Rev. F. C. Longaker.

Though there were sporadic attempts earlier, the first real effort to put the Bible into English was by John Wickliffe, in the fourteenth century. His translation having been made before the art of printing was in common use, it was never widely circulated. Nevertheless, it had its influence, which also continued to be felt for generations throughout England.

Almost a century and a half after Wickliffe's translation first appeared, another movement was started to give the Bible to the English people in the vernacular. The Reformation in Germany was then in full progress, and reports of Luther's work were current in England. Luther's doctrines and measures were frequently and freely discussed by English scholars. This, joined with the lingering influences of Wickliffe's Bible, led one William Tyndale to propose another translation

His first effort was bitterly opposed by the priests of Gloucestershire, where he was then filling the office of private chaplain and tutor in a family of rank. But believing that this was emphatically the work needed to meet the wants of his age, he sought more congenial atmosphere for the working out of his enterprise. The opposition from which he had suffered he ascribed to the abominable ignorance of the Gloucestershire clergy. Therefore, he determined to make his headquarters in London. From the enlightened clergy of the metropolis he expected very different treatment. He fixed his eyes on Tunstall, Lord Bishop of London, as the man under whose countenance he might execute, in safety and quiet, and with all such aids as he might need, the beneficent task of giving the Bible to England.

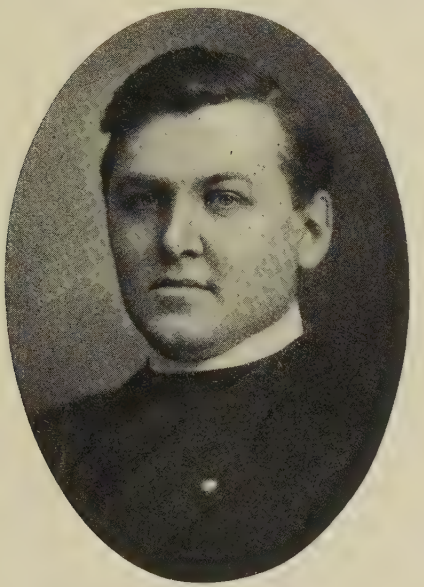
But in this fond dream he was disappointed. The Lord Bishop's house was full, and he could not admit another occupant.

Nevertheless, during the year he had found a friend—Humphrey Monmouth, a wealthy citizen, and afterward an Alderman of London. Late in the year 1523, being furnished by his friend, Monmouth, with 10 pounds (150 of the present time), Tyndale bade a final adieu to his native land and embarked for Germany. He landed at Hamburg, and with the Greek Testament of Erasmus and a copy of the German, just issued by Luther, he assiduously prosecuted his translation of the New Testament into English. When his work was about completed, he departed for Cologne for the purpose of having his manuscript printed on one of its celebrated presses. From here English merchants who were residing in the commercial cities of Germany, and who, as a general thing, were deeply impressed with Lutheran principles, were to carry the English New Testament back to their native country. Their ships were at his service for the conveyance of his precious offering into England, concealed in bales and boxes of merchandise. His arrangements, however, had to be made with the greatest secrecy, for Cologne was far from favorable to Reformation principles.

But secret as his movements were, they were discovered. John Cochlaeus, who is elsewhere designated as the Bible hater, having been driven from Frankfort, sought refuge at Cologne. Suspecting what was going on, he made the printers drunk, and "after they were well heated with wine," one of them confiden-

tially told him that Tyndale was having 3,000 copies of Luther's New Testament printed in English and prepared for shipment to England.

Learning of the discovery of his plans, Tyndale hastily gathered his manuscript and printed sheets, and sought refuge in the city of



REV. WILLIAM J. SEIBERLING,

Worms. Here he found a more congenial atmosphere. That his work might be as little recognized as possible by the secret Bible hunters, he had it struck off in octavo instead of quarto form, and dropped the prologue for an epistle to the reader. Later the quarto volume was also to be completed and sent to England. But through some inexplicable circumstance, both volumes reached England at about the same time. Yet, the labor was not fruitless. The little octavo quietly made its way through the country for almost a year before it was detected, while the quarto was discovered immediately upon its arrival.

Tyndale's New Testament has never been quite rooted out of England. Traces of it are to be found in the Authorized Version of 1611, still largely in use. Tyndale himself was for a number of years permitted to proceed with his reformatory writings in one city and another on the Continent. But at last he was compelled to pay the price of fidelity to the truth. The Privy Council of Brussels condemned him to the stake, and on October 6, 1536, he was first strangled and then burned to ashes. His last words were: "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

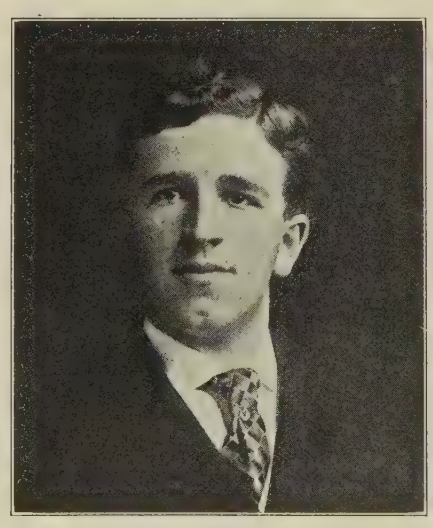
Rev. William J. Seiberling

whose portrait accompanies this sketch, is the very efficient president of the Luther League of Indiana, having been elected to that office for a fourth term at the recent convention of that State League.

He is a graduate of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., of the class of 1899. Since that time he has taken a full course in the Theological Seminary, in Chicago, graduating in 1902. In this same year Muhlenberg College conferred on him the degree of M. A. He is now pastor of the Mulberry parish, which position he has filled successfully for the past five years.

Frank M. Yenney

The accompanying cut is reproduced from a photograph of Mr. Frank M. Yenney, the president of the Syracuse District Luther League. Mr. Yenney made the address of welcome at the New York State League Convention, on October 29, and was responsible for the excellent arrangements for the holding of this very



FRANK M. YENNEY.

successful State convention in Syracuse, a full account of which appeared in our last number. Since Mr. Yenney's election as president of the Syracuse District the activity and efficiency of the district work has been growing very rapidly. The statistical report presented at the convention shows a membership in the district of 10 societies and 531 members—a gain over 1906 of 3 societies and 284 members.

Luther League Review

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE

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IN THE INTERESTS OF

The Lutheran Church and her Young People.

Edited by E. P. EILERT

WITH

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Editorial

On Christmas morn, when Christ was born,
Was heard a song of peace and love;
So full and strong, the perfect song
Of angel throng from heaven above.
And on this morn when Christ was born
Let all to Him an offering make;
A victory won, a good deed done,
Some work begun for His dear sake.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The greatest gift ever given, and at this season our hearts should be so full of thankfulness that God has remembered us, that we will be ready to remember others, first giving to Him all our powers, and then not forgetting to love our neighbor as ourself.

In the midst of the strenuousness of the holiday season, in the thinking and purchasing of gifts, the value of the present is often the first consideration. But some one has well said that "a little more love and less money makes a more acceptable gift." There are so many people in poor and sad circumstances to whom a cheering word or a small remembrance would be pleasing, and it would be well if every one had such people in mind at this joyous giving season.

And then there is so much to think of in the Church; the pastor, the Sunday School, the families represented, the activities of the Church at large—so many that often we are burdened with calls; and yet in remembering these there is a comfort to the heart and a blessing to the soul. Our purse-strings are often too tight; we forget that what we have is a trust, and that we are only stewards, dispensing God's gifts to others. Oh, that the coming year might be one in which our hearts are enlarged, and our willingness to serve increased!

A story is told of a woman living in a godless town, who lost a Christmas because she lay sick and unconscious upon her bed on that day, and when her strength returned one of the first thoughts was the loss. She was postmistress, and on the first morning she was able to work she thought, "Cannot I give Christmas to the people here?" As they came in for their mail she met each one with a kind word, and in her leisure she thought, "I must bring Christmas to these people." So she baked and distributed cakes generously throughout the town, and when she had reached all whom she could, and sat down to think, she said to herself, "Why cannot I make a Christmas of every day?" Her heart grew, and she gave herself to the work of making people happy by serving at the bedside of the sick, comforting the dying, so that in a short time her spirit pervaded the community, and through her efforts and that of the ministry nearly every inhabitant in that town was brought into the Church. If we

have nothing else to give, a happy heart, a bright countenance, a cheerful word, will comfort and bless.

—❦—

"There are many things from which I might have derived good," said old Scrooge's nephew, "by which I have not profited, I dare say. Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good, and I say, 'God bless it.'"—From Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol."

—❦—

BY JOHN MILTON.

No war, nor battle's sound,
Was heard the world around;
The idle spear and shield were high up hung;
The hooked chariot stood
Unstained with hostile blood;
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;
And kings sat still with awe-full eye,
As if they surely knew their sovereign Lord was by.

—From "Hymn of the Nativity."

—❦—

Oh, what shall we sing
To Christ Jesus, our King,
On Christmas all holy?
His praises we'll sing;
Through the sky let them ring
From hearts meek and lowly.

—❦—

Be punctual—have your hours and keep them. Don't lag, nor drag!

If our people put their trust in the Lord their God, it is but a small matter whether they put it in words on their coin. Let us imprint it indelibly upon our hearts and we'll not need it on the eagles.

—❦—

A little boy upon being given a well worn cent that had grown dull by its usage on its way from purse to purse, immediately dropped to the floor and began to brighten it upon the woolly rug. Why may not we take the world's money and brighten it by making it useful and blessed in the service of the Lord? The secret of success lies in the way the money is used, not in the money itself. It is not the money that is morally "tainted," but the selfish human heart.

—❦—

The Bible is the treasure of the poor, the comfort of the sick, the help of the dying; and it tells us how to live in health that when we come to die our last hours may not be those of sorrow and horror.

—❦—

The value of trained Christians is relative. It can be much, more, most. It ought not to be little, less, least. If the rising generation in the Lutheran Church are taught God's Word and hold on to our Confessions the young men and women will have an excellent groundwork for most efficient Christian service.

—❦—

Do you want to know something about the District League and its work? Then send ten cents for the new Luther League Handbook.

—❦—

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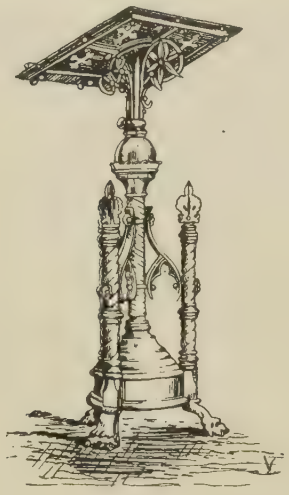
—❦—

Is it not a rather tiresome excuse to be saying it is "too hot," or "to wet," or "too dry" to go to church? For healthy people most excuses for not attending church are rather lame.



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—❧—

No life can be truly good that is not Christlike in useful work, done for His sake, with a character that cannot be discouraged.

—❧—

We would like our readers to bear in mind that they can very materially aid the REVIEW and help our common cause, for which the Luther League is working, by patronizing our advertisers. Write for their catalogues and information and examine what they have to offer. It will interest you.

—❧—

The traction system may illustrate the local work of the League. The young people are the dynamo that furnishes the power. The pastor is the switchboard that distributes the power. The various lines of church work are the wires, and the chairman of the committee is the controller. Each member is the connection through which the current passes. Only appreciate your opportunity and work.

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Our Churches and Institutions

In Some of Our Large Cities

Greater New York.

—St. Mark's Church, Rev. G. C. F. Haas, D.D., pastor, celebrated its sixtieth anniversary December 8 and 9. Sermons were preached by Rev. Dr. J. W. Loch, of Brooklyn, and Rev. Dr. J. A. W. Haas, of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa. Addresses were delivered by Rev. G. Doering, Rev. Dr. G. C. Berkemeier, Rev. F. W. Oswald, and Rev. J. A. Weyl. The occasion was marked by the presence of many Lutherans throughout the city who received much of their religious training in this church and who are now efficient workers in others, especially the English Lutheran churches.

—Rev. William M. Horn has accepted the call to the pastorate of the Church of the Advent to succeed the late Dr. Krotel.

—Rev. C. Armand Miller, D.D., has resigned the pastorate of Holy Trinity Church and will go to Charleston, S. C. Dr. Miller's departure from New York is greatly regretted by the church workers here.

—At the annual meeting of the directors of the Emigrant House held recently Missionary Doering reported that the house had sheltered during the year 6,039 guests, 1,200 more than last year. There is to be made an effort to reduce the debt of $47,000.

—St. Peter's Church, Rev. Dr. Moldenke, pastor, is building a summer home to accommodate 25 poor children.

—The German Lutheran Seamen's Home at 64 Hudson street, Hoboken, N. J., was dedicated on Saturday afternoon, November 23, and this act completes the first part of the work undertaken by the newly organized Association for the Care of German Seamen in the Harbor of New York. On account of the limited room only a small number of guests could be invited. About 125 people were present. The service was conducted by the president of the association, Rev. A. Richter, of Hoboken, and the dedication sermon was preached by the seamen's pastor, Rev. W. Thun. Other addresses were made by the German Deputy Consul General, Legationsrat C. Gneist, as representative of the German Consul General and the German Government, also by Gustav H. Schwab, resident director of the North German Lloyd, who said that he as well as Mr. Boas, his colleague, of the Hamburg-American Line, should feel ashamed that nothing had been done by their lines in all these years for their seamen, and they were more than glad that Rev. Thun and his associates had commenced the work and so far completed it. Addresses were made by the Mayor of Hoboken, greetings from the Philadelphia German Seamen's Society were brought by their pastor, and the closing remarks were made by Rev. Dr. Berkemeier, of Mount Vernon. The location of the house is an excellent one, in the immediate vicinity of the docks of the two great German steamship lines, and also near the Hoboken ferries to New York. The house was purchased for $12,000, and has been entirely rebuilt and furnished at an additional expense of over $5,000. The entire first floor is used as a reading room, where German papers and magazines are found, also the church papers published here and in Germany; on the second floor are a writing room and the chapel, where services are held every Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock; and the third floor is occupied by the seamen's pastor and by the lay helper and his wife. In the basement is the shipping office of the consulate, also shower baths for the men, etc. The house, of course, is open every day in the week, and the large reading room is filled nightly to its utmost capacity, which proves that this house has filled a long felt want and is appreciated by the many German seamen for whose benefit it was erected. While the two great German steamship lines contribute generously to the maintenance and support of the home, yet it is a "Lutheran" institution, and, therefore, has a right to expect the financial support of the Lutheran churches, not only in New York and its immediate vicinity, but throughout the land. The treasurer of the association is Mr. George Gravenhorst, 96 Wall street, New York City.

—The newly organized St. Paul's Church at Coney Island has purchased a plot of ground for $4,400, with a debt of only $300, which will be liquidated soon. The Ladies' Aid gave $2,200 of the funds.

Philadelphia.

—The Lutheran Social Union participated in a banquet with the social unions of the Pres-

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byterian, United Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches and the Episcopal Church Club. T. Elliott Patterson, Esq., presided. Judge W. H. Staake was the speaker representing the Lutheran Social Union. Mr. John H. Converse spoke on "Relations of Men to the Church." He said the laymen are changing their conception that their whole duty was embraced in sitting in the pew and paying rent.

—In Calvary Lutheran Church on Sunday morning, November 17, a handsome marble baptismal font was unveiled and consecrated by the pastor, Rev. Foster U. Gift. It is the gift of Mr. John Barger and family, in memory of their son Charles.

—Rev. Joseph S. Schantz has begun the hospice and settlement house work in this city, to which he was called recently.

—Trinity Church, Rev. A. Linz, pastor, is celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of its organization.

—St. Luke's Church has canceled its mortgage indebtedness, for which purpose a fund was almost completed under the pastorate of Rev. Charles L. Fry.

—The late Miss Frederica Graff left an estate of $150,000, divided among Lutheran churches and charitable institutions in this city.

Baltimore.

—Rev. F. P. Heninghousen, D. D., has completed his forty-third year as pastor of St. Stephen's Church, this city.

Washington.

—Rev. Charles H. Butler has tendered his resignation as pastor of Keller Memorial Church, this city.

—Zion's Church, Rev. C. F. Bergner, pastor, celebrated its fortieth anniversary during the week beginning December 1.

Louisville.

—Rev. Harlan K. Fenner, D. D., celebrated on December 1 the thirtieth anniversary of his pastorate of the Second Lutheran Church.

Pittsburgh.

—Temple Church, Rev. T. B. Yeakley, pastor, has had fifty accessions within a year.

—A service was held in the Morningside District of this city, November 3, with a view to organizing a new mission.

Buffalo.

—Rev. Edwin Boettger has accepted a recall to Grace Church pastorate.

—The Lutheran Home for the Aged and Infirm in this city was dedicated on December 1. The new building is a fireproof structure and is equipped with all the modern improvements.

Kansas City.

—The Hospital Society has purchased a piece of land, upon which it is intended to erect a modern hospital building. The price paid was $12,000, and the location is ideal.

Dayton.

—The First Lutheran Church, of this city, Rev. D. F. Garland, pastor, consecrated its new house of worship on Sunday, December 1. Rev. M. H. Valentine, D. D., of Philadelphia, delivered the sermon. The building is a handsome structure of the English gothic type, 188 feet long, and cost, with the plot on which it stands, $170,000. The congregation numbers 875 members and the Sunday school about 500.

Toledo.

—Rev. G. A. Bierdemann, D. D., accepted a call to St. Luke's Church, this city, and began his work on Advent Sunday.

Denver.

—The Lutheran Sanitarium for Consumptives cared for seventy-five patients during the year. The receipts were $16,943.

—Plans have been completed for the new church to be erected by Trinity congregation of Denver, Rev. Clarence N. Swihart, pastor.

York.

—The late Mrs. Catharine Weiser bequeathed $50,000 to Zion Lutheran Church, this city, and $2,000 each to the Home Mission, Foreign Mission and Church Extension boards of the General Synod.

Miscellaneous.

—Rev. Samuel F. Breckenridge, D. D., professor of Old Testament exegesis in the Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ohio, died suddenly in the morning of November 11. He was on his way to recitations when stricken with heart failure, and lived only two and a half hours afterward. Dr. Breckenridge was nearly seventy-four years old.

—Lutheranism is at the front in numerical strength in Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

—The secretary of the New York Bible Society says there are in that city more Italians than in Rome, more Germans than in Hamburg, three times as many Irish as in Dublin, and ten times as many Jews as in Palestine.

—Chicago claims the distinction of having the largest Lutheran congregation in America. It numbers 5,000 baptized members.

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SEND IN THE NEWS.—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and District of Columbia.

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—The address of our Literature Secretary, Rev. Charles L. Fry, is changed from 1920 North Seventh street to 3262 Park avenue, Philadelphia. Correspondents will please note the new address.

NEW YORK.

New York District.

—The Luther Day celebration under the auspices of the Luther League was held at St. Mark's Church, Rev. G. C. F. Haas, D. D., pastor. Dr. Haas spoke words of greeting and referred to Luther's courage in defending, against the whole Roman Church, the rights of individualism and freedom of faith. But he emphasized also Luther's fidelity to the true Church. He was never a revolutionist. Mr.

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William H. Rose, president of the Luther League of New York City, who presided, made a fitting response to the greeting of the pastor, and mentioned some practical work that the Luther Leagues might undertake to help the Church in its work of preaching the Gospel. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. C. Armand Miller, D. D. A synopsis of this address will appear in the next number.

Rhinebeck District.

—At a recent business meeting of the Luther League of St. John's Lutheran Church, Hudson, the following officers were elected: President, Norman P. Bain; vice president, Charles Hallenbeck; recording secretary, Miss Florence Hallenbeck; corresponding secretary, William Stangle; treasurer, Miss Dollie Hoes. On Thursday evening, November 14, the League gave a banquet in honor of the retiring officers, which was well attended, almost the whole League membership being present. The League is very active and successful.

Mohawk Valley District.

—The annual election of officers of the Luther League of the Church of the Redeemer, Utica, Rev. Edwin F. Keever, pastor, November 17, resulted as follows: President, Clifford A. Rockwell; vice president, Miss Clara Guelich; recording secretary, William B. Scheehl; corresponding secretary, Miss Katharine Dabelstein; financial secretary, Henry W. Dabelstein; treasurer, Miss Flora I. Kieber.

CONNECTICUT.

—On November 18 the Connecticut State Luther League held its second annual Luther Day Rally in the Swedish Lutheran Church, New Britain, Rev. Ohman, pastor, under the auspices of the Luther League of the Church of the Reformation, Rev. Aug. Rohrig, pastor. The Leagues of most of the churches throughout the State were represented. Rev. Rohrig welcomed the visitors, and Rev. J. A. Timm, of New Haven, responded. The principal speaker of the afternoon was Rev. M. J. Bieber, whose subject was "The Home Mission Outlook." Five minute addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Focht, Rev. Timm, Rev. Anderson, Rev. Franceen and Rev. Blethen. At the close of the service Prof. E. R. Khilmark gave an organ recital, and afterward the local League escorted the guests about the city, visiting the points of interest. The ladies of the Missionary Society served supper at the church. At the evening session addresses were delivered by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, General Secretary of the Luther League of America, whose subject was "The Luther League," and by Rev. J. B. Focht, D. D. These addresses were interesting and inspiring and were very well received. Special music was furnished by the choirs of the churches interested and Miss Ethel Olson and Mr. John Ericson. The Church of the Reformation is a mission and has not a permanent place of worship. The generosity of the Swedish Church in allowing the use of its house of worship for the celebration was appreciated.

NEW JERSEY.

—At the recent annual meeting of the Luther League of Holy Trinity Church, Elizabeth, Rev. F. C. Krapf, pastor, Mr. Simon Nitze was elected president and Miss Mayme S. Burkeman secretary. The League recently presented to the church new altar cloths.

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PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia District.

—The finance committee of the District League gave a musical and literary entertainment at Association Hall, Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, on Tuesday evening, October 22. The audience enjoyed a program of high order.

Upper Lehigh Valley District.

—The District Luther League of the Upper Lehigh Valley met in its twenty-seventh semi-annual convention in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Weissport, Rev. J. F. Bruch, pastor, November 13 and 14, 1907. There were four sessions. The two morning sessions were taken up mostly with reports of the various officers and committees and other routine business. There are twenty-one locals in the District. Of these, twenty were represented by fifty-three delegates and twelve pastors. The pastor loci extended a very cordial welcome to the assembled delegates and pastors, the president of the District League, Mr. Charles Brighthaupt, responding. The afternoon session was devoted to addresses, forming a "Symposium on Our Church in this Country." The general subject was opened by Rev. W. M. Rehrig, Ph. D., Mauch Chunk, the various phases being discussed as follows: 1, "What She Has Done," (a) East, Miss Mary Ash, Lehighton; (b) West, Rev. W. Penn Barr, Weatherly; (c) Canada, Mr. George Cressman, White Haven; (d) South, Mr. Ralph Shires, Lansford. 2, "What Should She Do," Miss Emily Goeppert, Freeland. At the vesper service Rev. W. C. L. Lauer, East Mauch Chunk, gave a very able address on "Our Church in Porto Rico," and Mr. A. Raymond Bard, Reading, gave an excellent address on "The Outlook of the Luther League in Pennsylvania." After the evening session a reception was held in Lemmel's Hall, where a well prepared literary and musical program was rendered and refreshments served. The League especially urged all the delegates to present the cause of the Luther League Review to their Leagues and have each member become a subscriber. The League decided to contribute $5 toward the Church Extension Fund and to pay $50 again this year toward the support of the Sunday school superintendent of the Northwest. Each League was also requested to take

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up a voluntary offering at its next regular meeting for the benefit of the work among the Slovaks. The spring convention will be held in Trinity Church, Lansford.

Berks County District.

—The Luther League of St. James' Church, Reading, Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., pastor, celebrated its thirty-second anniversary with appropriate exercises on Thursday evening, November 7, in connection with its monthly business meeting. The church was prettily decorated with plants and flowers, the League colors and motto. An interesting feature was the presence of the first president, Mr. G. A. Schlechter, who gave reminiscences of thirty-two years ago. Daniel Levan read a paper on "The League of Today," and President John H. Early made an address on the "Luther League's Forward Movement." Following the session a reception was tendered the members of the congregation and visiting friends, who were out in large number. On Sunday evening, November 10, the members of the League attended divine service in a body, when the pastor preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion. The League of St. James' has all the stability of age and the energy of youth, and has entered upon the present year with promise of even greater usefulness in the congregation.

Cumberland District.

—A year ago there was organized in the First Lutheran Church of Carlisle a District Luther League, with an enrollment of fourteen societies. An excellent program was carried out, and the following officers elected: President, H. H. Mercer, Esq., Mechanicsburg; secretary, Miss Mary Nicklas, Shippensburg; treasurer, R. J. MacCartney, Carlisle. This year the organization held its first annual convention in Zion Lutheran Church, Newville, Rev. G. W. Nicely, pastor, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 19 and 20. There were twenty-two societies represented. About seventy-five delegates and workers met and discussed with enthusiasm and fraternity the problems of the young people in the Lutheran Church. The session opened Tuesday evening with a splendid and powerful presentation of "Luther's Protest Against Indulgences" by Rev. S. W. Owen, D. D., president of the General Synod.

Wednesday morning began the business of the convention. The same officers were unanimously re-elected. The first paper discussed was "The Relation of Young People's Societies to Missions," by Rev. W. J. Miller, Jr., of the seminary at Gettysburg. This able discussion led to the appointment of a central committee of three, to co-operate with the missionary committees of the several societies to disseminate information regarding our own Lutheran missions at home and abroad. The next topic was "The Relation of the Young People's Societies to the Church," by Rev. J. U. Asper, of Lehmasters. This paper impressed loyalty to our own Church as foremost in successful young people's work, and to make the organization a recruiting station for the Church. The "Young People's Society and Its Relation to the Sunday School" was discussed by President Mercer. He said that instead of finding our workers for the Young People's Society in the Sunday school, we ought to get our Sunday school workers from the Young People's Society. In the afternoon, Rev. G. C. Henry, D. D., of Shippensburg, gave a very helpful and scholarly exposition of the Book of Matthew. This was followed by an excellent paper by Rev. H. N. Fegley, D. D., of St. Mark's Church, Mechanicsburg. His subject was "The Young People's Society as an Educational Agency," showing how for history, doctrine, missions and practical teaching this organization stands pre-eminent.

Prof. Frank Newman, of Shippensburg State Normal, discussed the topic, "How to Awaken an Interest in the Young People's Society." With great brilliancy he showed defects and sources of strength in the young people's societies, and indicated how to make things go. The last paper was the discussion of "The Federation of the Young People's Societies of the Lutheran Church," by Rev. G. M. Diffenderfer, of Carlisle. He appealed to all the young people to ally themselves with this District League, and also with the State organization of Lutheran Young People, claiming that because of our common heritage and aim we ought to have an organic union. No one is asked to discard the name they bear, but to give significance to it by adding the name all Lutheran young people love, that of Martin Luther.

On Wednesday evening the convention closed with a most excellent historical address by Rev.

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E. D. Weigle, D. D., of Mechanicsburg. His topic was "Some Places in Lutheran Lands." He had just returned from a visit to the scenes of Luther's activity, and took his audience to Eisleben, Eisenach, Worms and Wittenburg. Thus closed one of the most delightful and helpful conventions of young people of the Lutheran Church of the Cumberland Valley, which is so largely Lutheran in its faith. The next meeting will be held in Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, Rev. C. G. White, pastor, early in next September. The following delegates were elected to the State Luther League: H. H. Mercer, Esq., Mechanicsburg; Rev. H. N. Fegley, D. D., Mechanicsburg, and Mrs. M. A. Kramer, Oakville.

Pittsburgh District.

—October 22, 1907, the Junior Luther League of Grace Church, Spring Garden avenue, Allegheny, celebrated its tenth anniversary with a reunion.

OHIO

Springfield District.

—The Springfield District Luther League held a rally in the Fifth Church, Springfield, on Friday evening, November 8, with an address by Rev. S. A. Ort, D. D.

INDIANA

La Porte District.

—The Swedish Lutheran Church of La Porte, Rev. August Johnson, pastor, has now an active League of fifty members, which is gradually increasing in numbers and efficiency.

ILLINOIS

Tri-City District.

—The Tri-City District League held its annual convention December 7 and 8, in the Swedish Lutheran Church, Moline, Rev. L. A. Johnston, D. D., pastor. There were interesting and encouraging reports of the work during the year. Miss Heden, of Davenport, Ia., presented a report of the State convention at Elliott last fall, and Mr. J. H. Hauberg presented the claims of the next national convention. The executive committee was instructed to undertake active extension work with a view to securing the co-operation of the Leagues within the district but not associated. The convention address was delivered by Rev. Ira O. Wothstein, of Rock Island, on the subject "The White Rose." Eighty delegates were enrolled. A contribution to the National League treasury was made. The following officers were elected: President, August Brissman; first vice president, Rev. W. H. Blancke; second vice president, Rev. S. G. Hagglund; third vice president, Rev. L. A. Johnston, D. D.; recording secretary, Miss Emma Heden; corresponding secretary, Ernest Clementson; treasurer, Miss Esther Edwall.

At the banquet after the business session, at which J. H. Hauberg acted as toastmaster, the following toasts on the Luther League were responded to: "Its History," F. G. Hagglund; "Its Aim," J. E. Barington; "Its Achievements," Allen Nystrom; "The Luther League Young People and the Future," John C. Mohl.

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Galesburg District

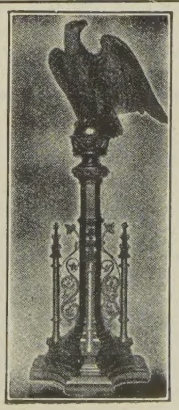
—In December, 1906, Trinity Lutheran Church (English) was organized in Galesburg. It has now a membership of 300 or more. The young people of that church organized a Luther League on November 6, 1907, with a membership of fifty. The League will meet on Sunday evening at 6:30 and will study the Topics. A social and business meeting will be held each month. The officers are: President, Rev. F. O. Hanson; vice president, Mr. Lawrence Johnson; secretary, Mr. A. H. Freeburg; treasurer, Mr. William Anderson; corresponding secretary, Miss Nellie Swanson.

GEORGIA

—The Luther League of the Church of the Ascension, Savannah, recently presented the operetta "Pauline," in two acts, under the direction of Miss Olive Gould, for the benefit of missions, home and foreign. The amount realized was about $350. At the annual election of officers the following were elected: President, Howard R. Keister; first vice president, J. Edward Struck; second vice president, Meta Mousees; recording secretary, Adline Semkens; corresponding secretary, Henrietta Vollers; treasurer, Henry F. Meyer. The officers were duly installed at the following meeting by the pastor, Rev. W. C. Schaeffer, D. D.

WISCONSIN

—The Luther League of the Church of the Redeemer, Milwaukee, held its annual meeting recently and elected the following officers: President, Hugh Sharp; vice president and treasurer, George W. Kopps; secretary Elsie Nygaard. A series of debates, lectures and papers is being arranged for the winter. This League looks on socials as the unnecessary attraction, and endeavors to keep its members interested by keeping them thinking and doing.



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—Through Pastor Rubrecht the Luther League of the Church of the Epiphany has arranged a series of stereopticon lectures for the coming winter, as follows: "India and the Hindu," "China and the Missionary's Problems," "Africa," "Mohammedanism vs. Christianity," "Malay and Borneo," "The Negro of the South." These lectures will be free to all.

—The State convention of 1908 will convene at the Church of the Redeemer. The committee is endeavoring to arrange the time of meeting so as to enable the delegates to go from here to the national convention and thus insure a good Wisconsin representation.

—The Luther League of the Church of the Reformation is only temporarily organized, but is following the Topics and using the "Luther League Review."

MINNESOTA

Twin City District.

—St. James' Luther League, St. Paul, held its annual business meeting November 9, when the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Earnest Johnson; vice president, Miss Florence Otto; secretary, Miss Hulda Peterson; treasurer, Mr. C. L. Weiser; corresponding secretary, Miss Elfie Freedland. The membership committee reported the reception of thirty-five new members within the year. A reading circle has been formed among the members of the confirmation class, with a view to preparing themselves for active work in the League. The Junior League presented a very encouraging report. After the business session a social was held.

NEBRASKA

—The Omaha District Luther League of the Augustana Synod held a convention in Zion Church, Omaha, Rev. J. V. Carlson, pastor, November 1 to 3. An interesting and inspiring program was carried out, questions of vital importance receiving earnest attention. Among the actions taken was the following resolution: That the District League recommends to the local Leagues in the District the use of the Luther League Topics of the Luther League of America, beginning with the coming church year. Many of the Augustana Synod League conventions lately have manifested a disposition to encourage the use of religious instead of literary programs for the local League meetings, and one writer prophesies that when they do find a solution of the problem they will find the path too well beaten to ignore the Luther League Topics plan.

COLORADO

—The young people of the Lutheran Church at Idaho Springs organized, early in October, a Luther League of twelve members. The church is without a pastor, and the young people are making an effort to keep up the strength of the church and to maintain at least one service each week. The meetings are held on Sunday evening and the Luther League Topics are studied. Miss Hanna M. Engberg is president of the new League.

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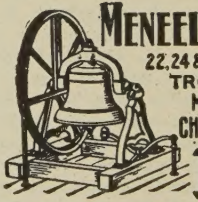

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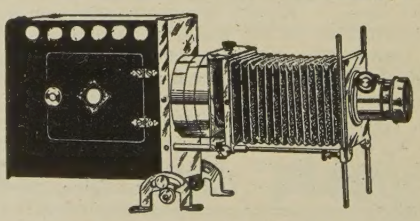

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Columbia District.

—The seventh convention of the Columbia District Luther League was entertained in Vancouver, Wash., by the congregation and Luther League of St. Paul's Church, October 22 to 24. The decorations of Luther League colors, plants and cut flowers, the presentation of a badge of colors to each delegate and visitor, together with the hearty expressions of welcome, good will and fellowship, inspired a spirit of enthusiasm and a feeling of deep interest which made the convention all that the most earnest workers could desire. The convention opened on Tuesday evening with delegates present from the four societies comprising the Columbia District League. The opening service was conducted by Rev. M. E. Boulton, of The Dalles. The convention sermon was delivered by Rev. Carl A. Tolin, of Portland, his subject being "The Old Faith and the New Land." Miss Zacharias, president of the Vancouver League, welcomed the delegates to St. Paul's Church and extended to them the hospitality of the congregation's homes. Miss Nyland, treasurer of the District, responded to the address of welcome. Excellent music was rendered by St. James' choir, of Portland.

The session Wednesday was devoted to routine business, the reports of officers and committees showing substantial progress. Reports of the presidents of the four societies were especially encouraging, showing deep earnestness and a great activity in the work of the churches. The following officers were elected: President, William S. T. Derr; secretary, Anna Stubling; statistical secretary, Furn Church; treasurer, Alema Nyland. Three very practical and helpful papers were presented at the afternoon session: "Presentation of the Luther League Topics," by Miss Celeste Albin, of Portland; "Effective Committee Work," by Mrs. M. E. Boulton, of The Dalles; "The Social Side of Church Work," by Mr. Allen Y. Anderson, of Astoria. At the rally the opening service was conducted by Rev. M. E. Boulton. The two addresses of the evening were delivered by Rev. M. E. Boulton, of The Dalles, and Rev. Gustaf E. Rydquist, of Astoria. Rev. Boulton's address was somewhat of a historical nature, his subject being "The Luther League: Its Past, Its Future." Rev. Rydquist chose "The Sons of Louvar," and from this subject drew a most beautiful and inspiring address. The rally closed with the rally hymn.

On Thursday morning the local League entertained the convention with a "sightseeing" tour. A visit to the Barracks in time for guard mount, and seeing the construction of the longest steel bridge in the world, were among the sights interesting to visitors. In the afternoon the business of the convention was finished and a paper on "The Difference Between a Luther League and a Literary Society" was presented by J. A. Allquist, of Vancouver. Rev. J. A. Leas, of Portland, conducted a question box, which proved most interesting. A pleasant feature of the afternoon session consisted of "Two Minute Encouragements from the Presidents of the Local Leagues and Societies." In the evening the local League entertained with a reception to the delegates and visitors at I. O. O. F. Hall. An excellent program was given and light refreshments served. The convention promoted feelings of better fellowship, closer union, and, above all, an earnest purpose to go home and work more devotedly for the Church which the Luther League is so proud to represent. The next convention will be held in The Dalles in October, 1908, and the prospects of the addition of three new societies at this meeting are most encouraging.

—The Luther League of the church at The Dalles received much inspiration and practical help from the District League convention at Vancouver in October. Two of the papers presented at the convention were read before the local League, arousing much interest and fervor. Miss Anna Stubling presented a helpful paper at a recent meeting.

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The December Juniors

IN THIS DEPARTMENT, WRITE TO REV. C. E. HAUPT, D.D., LANCASTER, PA.

There is no month in all the year dearer to the heart of the average boy or girl than that of the holly-crowned, snow-frosted December. From its beginning the Church has something of promise and hope. Advent is not complete with prophecy, but only when there is the arrival of the King eternal and immortal in the person of the lowly Christ-child. The first gospel lesson of the year reminds us of the coming of Jesus to stand in the Holy Place, with clean hands and pure heart, the perfect One of Israel.

Well may the gates of the year be lifted up for the Lord of Glory to pass through them on His way to the throne of all ages world without end.

And well may our Junior Leaguers rejoice in the blessings which the spirit of this time scatters more bountifully than snowflakes over the workers and the work of the Kingdom of Emmanuel "God with us."

—

The true purport of Christmas is self-giving, rather than the ambition to receive and gloat over the many things of value and beauty which kind and loving friends have thoughtfully bestowed upon us.

—

Has your League tried the new Topics? What are the notable days in the month of December?

—

To all Junior League workers and members we would hand out two cards—on one the message A Merry Christmas, on the other A Happy New Year.

—

It is the rubbing after the "filler" has been put on that brings out the beautiful grain of the wood. So hardships bring out the abilities of well taught Christians.

—

Even though the frost may come, it will bring many blessings for us. The glories of Indian Summer; the opening of the chestnut burr; the quickening of our activity; the ripened fruits, and the golden corn; the games, sports and pastimes that are so delightful, and then the loveliness of the last crop of flowers, led by the chrysanthemums; all tell us of the greatness and goodness of God. "Now, thank we all our God." "Those who have gained wisdom with years will meet all events in the spirit of light and promise."

CAN YOU

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Debate?
Collect stamps?
Ride a wheel?
Take part in Bible study?
Sing?
Play an instrument?
Lead a Junior League meeting?
Be ready! God is always calling some one.

—

CANADA

—St. John's Church Luther League, Morrisburg, Ont., Rev. J. C. F. Rupp, pastor, is making good progress in its work this year. Its subscription list to The Review was recently largely increased. This church claims the distinction of being the first Lutheran Church in the Canadas and the oldest Protestant Church in Ontario.

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